



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
BUREAU OF ELECTIONS  
LANSING

May 23, 2022

**REVIEW OF NOMINATING PETITION**

**CRAIG PAPPIN**

Nonpartisan Candidate for 12<sup>th</sup> District Judge, Incumbent Position

**NUMBER OF VALID SIGNATURES REQUIRED:** 600 signatures.

**TOTAL FILING:** 854 signatures.

**RESULT OF FACE REVIEW:** 680 valid signatures, 174 invalid signatures.

Total number of signatures filed		854
Jurisdiction errors (no city in county known by name given by signer, dual jurisdiction entry, jurisdiction name given by signer does not align with address)	Less:	33
Date errors (no date given by signer, date of birth entered, or date given by signer is later than circulator's date of signing)	Less:	4
Address errors (no street address or rural route given)	Less:	2
Heading errors (signatures signed on a date where the office designation was incorrect)	Less:	135
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>680</b>

Staff's face review of Mr. Pappin's petition sheets identified 174 invalid signatures and 680 facially valid signatures.

**DESIGNATION ERRORS:** Staff identified 135 signatures on petition sheets where the wrong incumbency status was listed in the title of office. Michigan Election Law requires the heading of the petition state the office for which the candidate is filing. For judicial offices, the candidate must state whether that office is an incumbent position or a non-incumbent position. MCL 168.467b. The designation changed from non-incumbent to incumbent on April 11, 2022, the date on which Judge Robert K. Gaecke, Jr. was sworn in and filed his affidavit of candidacy with the Bureau of Elections.

When an open judicial seat is filled by an appointment while nominating petitions are being circulated, signatures gathered prior to the date on which the appointee files their affidavit of candidacy are valid so long as the signature sheet identifies the office sought as a non-incumbent position. Once the appointee files an affidavit of candidacy, the office sought switches from a non-incumbent position to an incumbent position, and signatures gathered after the appointee has filed their affidavit of candidacy must be gathered on petition sheets that identify the office

sought as an incumbent position. The day the appointee files their affidavit of candidacy, petition sheets may identify the office sought as either an incumbent or non-incumbent position.

Here, any signatures gathered on or before April 10, 2022 must have been collected on a non-incumbent petition sheet while signatures gathered on or after April 12, 2022 must have been collected on an incumbent petition sheet. Signatures gathered *on* April 11, 2022 may have been collected on either an incumbent or non-incumbent petition sheet.

**CHALLENGE:** James Carl Reed and Steven Maxwell Dockery Reed filed a challenge to 174 of Mr. Pappin's signatures. 130 of the challenged signatures had already been determined invalid during face review. Staff did not process the remaining 44 challenged signatures because the 44 challenged signatures did not exceed Mr. Pappin's remaining "cushion" of 80 excess signatures after face review.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Determine petition sufficient.